Creation and abolition of Group 'A' posts in Central Government Offices

*127. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that creation and abolition of Group 'A' posts in the Central Government Offices require approval of Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, how many non-plan posts in Group 'A' have been created during 1994-95 and the estimated additional expenditure; and

(c) what is the number of Group 'A' posts actually abolished or approved for abolition under the declared target of 10% reduction in establishment expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) Powers for creation and abolition of posts (including Group 'A' posts) upto the level of Joint Secretary have been delegated to Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India under the Delegation of Financial Powers Rules, 1978. However, in the context of economy in expenditure, the powers for creation of posts have been restricted/withdrawn temporarily, except in respect of scientific posts created under the delegated powers of the Departments declared as Scientific Organisations and the posts required for implementation of the Official Language Policy.

(b) No data in this regard is centrally maintained. However, proposals for creation of posts are scrutinised in detail and only in exceptional or unavoidable circumstances posts which are found justified on the basis of workload/ functional need, are allowed to be created. For creation of Non-Plan posts, matching saving by abolition of posts in the same group or in immediate line of promotion is also generally insisted upon.

(c) According to the information available in this Ministry, so far about 2800 Group 'A' posts have been abolished in the Central Government offices.

Functioning of IFCI

*128. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will conduct a thorough review into various practices of Industrial Finance Corporation of India and its role in participation in management of assisted units;

(b) whether the lack of growth of IFCI is partly due to its distractive commitment in intra-company disputes;

(c) what steps are proposed to draw clear guidelines for IFCI nominated directors not to allow themselves to be drawn into personal disputes in large private companies;

(d) whether any warning has already been issued; and

(e) how does Government protect the integrity of the financial institutions from such activities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a), (c) to (e) Financial Instituions (FIs) such as Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI) do not generally intefere in day-to-day management of private sector units. FIs have evolved appropriate mechanism to maintain effective linkage with their borrowers. An important linkage with the borrowers is the appointment of nominee directors on the Board of assisted units. FIs have evolved guidelines in respect of nominee directors. The nominee directors are expected to act in the best interest of the company and also safeguard the interest of the FI concerned.

(b) IFCI has reported that its operations have recorded a growth rate in sanctions and disbursements during the year 1994-95 of the order of 54.3% and 48.7% respectively on annualised basis over the sanctions and disbursements made during 1993-94 (July-March).

Creation of National Transmission Network for Power

*129. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power transmission network has not been developed equally as the power generation network/ infrastructure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any plans to create a National Transmission Network to ensure dependable transmission, covering the entire country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) and (b) Appropriate associated transmission links are planned and executed for evacuation of power from the generating stations. Development of infrastructure for transmission of power is an ongoing process and there is always need for augmentation/strengthening of the transmision network.

(c) and (d) Acton has already been initiated for the formation of a National Power Grid involving inter-connection of regional grids to facilitate exchange of power across various regions in the country and to make optimum utilisation of the available generation resources. The details of the Schemes for integrating the Regional Grids into a National Grid are as follows:—

(i) 500 MW HVDC Back to Back transmission link at Vindhyachal connecting Northern and Western Region already exists (approximate cost Rs. 146.33 crores).

(ii) 1000 MW HVDC Back to Back station at Chandrapur connecting Southern and Western Regions is under execution and expected to be commissioned in 1997-98 (Approximate cost Rs. 900.28 crores).

(iii) 500 MW HVDC Back to Back link at Vishakhapatnam connecting Eastern and Southern Regions has also been approved for commissioning during 1998-99 (Approximate cost Rs. 659.98 crores).

(iv) 500 MW HVDC Back to Back Mau-Biharshariff project has also been planned to connect Eastern and Northern Regions for commissioning during 9th Plan (approximate cost Rs. 556.31 crores).

Other major links would be planned alongwith future generating projects.

Prices of Consumer Items

130. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) have the prices of consumer items come down after the presentation of the 1995-96 budget as stated by the Minister of Finance while presenting the budget;

(b) if so, the names of the items whose prices have come down and by how much/to what extent; and

(c) the reasons for the prices not coming down in respect of the remaining